



Southeastern Technical College Using Workforce Development Partnerships to Rejuvenate Region's Economy

With an unemployment rate at or above seven percent in five of the eight counties served by Southeastern Technical College, training a highly skilled labor force that can find sustaining employment within the region is a necessity. In response, Southeastern Tech utilized comprehensive analysis, planning, and assessments with area manufacturing representatives, the Swainsboro/Emanuel County Development Authority, and local businesses and industries to add the Computer Numerical Controller (CNC) Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) program.

“The new CNC TCC program represents Southeastern Tech’s renewed commitment to growing workforce development,” said Jill Stuckey, USDA Rural Development Georgia State Director. It is estimated that area manufacturers could increase employment levels 20 percent in CNC machine related fields if they had trained and ready candidates.



USDA celebrated campus renovations and expanded workforce training with Southeastern Technical College on Sept. 22, 2016

An \$18,300 Rural Development Community Facility grant obligated in FY2016 will provide partial funding for the purchase of a PC-controlled 3-axis milling machine and a PC-controlled slant-bed lathe for the College’s new CNC lab. Classified as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or STEM career, CNC is reported in the top 11 high-demand careers by the office of Governor Deal. CNCs operate a variety of computer-controlled and mechanically controlled machine tools to produce precision parts from everything from metal to plastic to fabric. Southeastern Technical College plans to offer the program in the evenings for traditional students, but is also promoting its CNC program as a Move On When Ready (MOWR) program to allow high school students to earn college credit while working on their high school diploma. In addition to creating a pipeline of local skilled workers, it is anticipated that it will help raise high school graduation rates.

Georgia Rural Development is growing its partnership with Southeastern Technical College’s continuous, comprehensive, and integrated system for a positive economic impact.

Obligation Amount: \$18,300 Community Facility Grant Program

Date of Obligation: August 2016

Congressional District: Representative Rick Allen, 12; Senators Isakson and Perdue

Partners: Swainsboro/Emanuel County Development Authority, local businesses

Demographics: STRIKEFORCE- Southeastern Technical College service area: Candler, Emanuel, Jenkins, Johnson, Montgomery, Tattnall, Toombs and Treutlen Counties, Georgia. Combined population 120,413 and average 28.6% poverty rate (from Census.gov); Regional average Unemployment rate is 7.15% - Georgia State Average Unemployment rate is 5.2%. (from Bureau of Labor Statistics July 2016)

Impact: Creating jobs to rejuvenate an impoverished rural region through targeted training that meets the local high demand for a technically skilled workforce.